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Before a person can apply for membership in the Communist Party he must go through a probationary period in which he proves that he is worthy of being accepted into the Party. The probationary period last one year, during which the candidate must attend a special school for Party candidates and must assist at the Communist Party meetings. Not all candidates go to the same type of school for the schooling is relative to the amount of ability that the candidate possesses. Candidates without previous education, even general education, go to a very elementary school, while those who are further advanced intellectually have special schooling in which smaller groups participate. There is a third type of school which they call the individual school wherein one, two, or three people participate and which might even take the form of self-tutoring. The decision as to which school a candidate must attend rests with the District Secretary of the Party. The teachers are experienced members of the Party who form a distinct well-trained corps within the Party. At present, most of the teachers have been trained in Czechoslovakia but the leaders of the teachers corps were trained in the USSR. After the year's schooling and probation is over, the candidate must undergo an examination which covers his knowledge of Party doctrine. Two members in good standing in the Party must act as sponsors for the candidate and these sponsors also undergo detailed questioning concerning the candidate. In addition, before the candidate is finally accepted he must undergo what is called a personal check. He must tell the story of his life before the district meeting of the Party and must answer all questions that are put to him. The candidate must bare the entire story of his life and also present his plans for the future. After successful completion of the school, of the one-year probation, of the examination, and of the personal check, then a candidate is admitted to the Party and is issued a membership card.

5. [redacted] a membership card in the Communist Party [redacted]

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[redacted] in 1945 it was simple paper with a big red star on the cover and with entries noting the name, age and profession of the Party member and date of his entry into the Party. On the reverse side of the card there were blank lines on which contributions were noted as they were received. A change occurred in approximately 1948.

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[redacted] Membership cards are not permitted to be carried abroad and this is true for all diplomatic personnel.

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6. [redacted]

The officer in charge of the personal registration section in each region is responsible for the issuance of the personal identity cards. Each card is signed by this individual.

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7. [redacted]

8. [redacted]

The Party membership card is an honorary card, almost like a diploma, which certifies to Party loyalty. It is not considered as belonging to the members. When a member leaves the Party or is expelled he must return the card. As long as the member is in good standing the card belongs to him. There is no notation on the card that it is valid until any set date.

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9. [redacted]

[redacted] the person losing the card must present a sufficiently good reason to explain the loss in order to obtain a new card. I do not know whether there is any fine for the loss of the card or any loss of privilege. The Czech law states that when a person loses his card he must declare his loss to the police.

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10.

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All of them are very important at various times in the lives of people living in the country. For instance, the birth certificate is important for it must be shown in order to obtain a passport to leave the country and also to obtain the identity card. Citizenship papers must also be shown when applying for a passport to leave the country. Academic papers are not now as important as they were formerly, but they still have importance when a person wishes to obtain a position.

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Once they have shown either one or the other of these papers at the time of application for the personal identity card, only the latter must be carried.

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Czechoslovakia used to have a double system of registration--church registration and civil registration. Registers were maintained by parochial offices for members of churches and by local civic organizations such as the mayor's office for persons registered only with civil authorities. Now (1952), however, these matters have been taken away completely from the Church and out of the hands of town and village authorities and have been assigned to the local National Councils. Each local National Council has an office called the Matriculation Office (Atrici Urad) where births are registered. When a baby is born either at home or in a hospital, the doctor must report the birth to the Matriculation Office. The parents and one witness also have to go to the office to register the birth. A similar procedure is necessary for marriage for no longer are churches allowed to maintain a register. All marriages must be registered at the local National Council office.

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The National Regional Council issues citizenship papers. A person born outside the country must reside for five years in Czechoslovakia in order to obtain these papers.

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The only paper necessary is the identity certificate. No travel permit is necessary but the person travelling must register with the police. Anyone remaining more than 24 hours in a town must register with the nearest police station. If the traveller stays in a hotel, the hotel will notify the police of his presence. At the time of reporting to the police the identity card must be shown. It is the usual practice for the police to take up the identity card and to return it after a short time.

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17.

in some of the satellite countries citizen certificates of loyalty have been issued.

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and are probably still in use in Czechoslovakia. They were required as proof of loyalty for everyone who wished to obtain citizenship papers or passports. They were issued by the Regional National Council. Now only those who desire citizenship must obtain proof of loyalty for the ordinary native has no need of this certificate. However, immediately after the war, citizens also needed these certificates for many employers required them prior to employment, especially in government service. To obtain a certificate of loyalty a person had to present ten witnesses.

The main purpose of this certificate after the war was to weed out those who had collaborated with the Germans.

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These certificates were required mainly for employment in state positions and were generally not needed for those employed in private industry. This document was not needed for a document check and did not have to be carried on one's person.

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The applicant would go to the local committee of the National Council and request the president of the committee to issue a certificate. He would not be required to fill out any form, but merely state his request. The president of the committee would ask who his witnesses were and would require ten signatures. It was not necessary to bring the witnesses to the office of the Council but a statement would suffice--either one statement with ten signatures or separate statements from each witness. As soon as the applicant had obtained the necessary affidavits from his witnesses, he would return to the office and would obtain the certificate. Generally no further investigation was conducted unless the person applying was known to be an unreliable person.

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the applicant was compelled to obtain a certificate of loyalty from the locality where he had lived and where he was known. If a person moved from one city to another then a delay might occur until such time as his application was investigated.

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men must register for military service

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at the age of 20 and must register three times at the ages of 20, 21, and 22. During that period he is under the control of the military authorities and must present himself for military duty whenever summoned. The period of registration is between the first of July and the first of August of each year.

20.

Initially a public announcement was made that all those born in a certain year should present themselves to the local council of the National Committee. At the local office each registrant would fill out some papers and would then proceed to the Regional National Council. Here he would receive a medical examination whereby he was classified as physically fit or unfit for military service. If he were fit, he would then report for service on the first of October. In the interim he was not permitted to leave the country. The men would be notified immediately whether they failed or passed the physical examination. They would be notified through the mail where to report for military service. With these orders they could secure tickets for the railroad and tickets for food on the journey. They travelled usually in groups and were accompanied by military police.

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Exemptions are given on the basis of health, public service, academic standing, and family difficulties. The request for exemption for any of these reasons must be presented immediately after the medical examination.

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A person who presents himself for registration at the office of the local National Council has a stamp put on his identity paper signifying that he has complied with the requirements of reporting for conscription.

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Each medical examination is the same. It is possible that a person might be disqualified one year and might be found physically fit the following year. The examination takes about five minutes. The examiners measure the candidate's height and weight and give a short examination to the body. No X-ray or blood pressure reading is taken. The eyes and the mouth are examined but the ears are not.

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Each deferment is judged on its own particular circumstances. Students might be deferred for two years but more generally the deferment is for one year. Occupational and family deferments also would vary in each instance. The deferment is given by the military department of the Regional Council.

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for military training and semi-military training is obligatory for every citizen, including women, in Czechoslovakia. Children take pre-military training and as they grow older they are trained in various groups such as the Skol, the KSM, and the Federation for Czechoslovak Youth. Older people also have to participate in physical training and special military training.

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No, he retains his military book. In it is listed his complete military service up to and including the time of his discharge from the Army. The military book then continues the man's activity in the reserve. The book contains the name, date and place of birth, the number of the regiment, the station, and signature of the commanding officer. It was not necessary for the reservist to carry the book with him at all times. All books were the same color, namely, gray.

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there were different certificates for temporary residence and for permanent residence. Temporary certificates were issued to persons living in hotels, in rented rooms, or in sub-leased apartments. These persons were required to carry a special certificate issued by the police. Permanent residents in a home or an apartment received a permanent residence certificate. Both types of individuals were required to register their residence with the local police. The general procedure was for an applicant to fill out an application form in triplicate and to present the form at the nearest police station. At the police station the application form was stamped and returned to the applicant. A new certificate had to be obtained every time a person or family moved from one apartment to another. When moving, a person had to execute two sets of papers - one to register departure from an apartment and another to register rental of the new apartment. The papers had to be signed both by the landlord of the apartment being vacated and the landlord of the apartment being rented. The same would apply to a sub-lessor or a hotel manager. no attempt was made to investigate the truth of the statements made in the application form. People were not required to carry these registration forms on their person, nor did at any one's door and requiring a tenant to

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produce such a registration certificate. The application forms were printed by the government printing office and could be obtained either at police stations or in stationary stores or tobacco shops. The important thing was to get the police stamp upon the form.

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Generally, the term passport is applied to passports for foreign travel and for internal use. The latter is actually the personal identity card. The travel passport is generally issued to be valid for a period of two years but is often limited to the actual time needed for the performance of a certain mission. For instance, delegates to certain conferences might obtain passports limited to three or six months.

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Passports were extremely difficult to obtain in Czechoslovakia. They were issued only for important reasons, most often for matters of state interest and almost never for private reasons. The passports were issued by a special department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called The Department of National Passports. In order to obtain a passport the applicant had to produce his birth certificate, his marriage certificate, citizenship papers, military papers, military book, and tax papers. The tax papers certified to the fact that the applicant has paid all his taxes. The person desiring to leave the country was required to obtain a statement from the local tax officer certifying that all his tax obligations were satisfied. He was also compelled to pay an emigration tax, which was paid at the office of the Regional National Council. This emigration tax was theoretically a percentage of the person's capital ownership in the country. Diplomatic personnel were excluded from paying the emigration tax.

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31.

there are separate forms to be filled out for each type of passport. Furthermore, diplomatic personnel did not have to present their tax paper.

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Yes, all people, including diplomats, had to produce a certificate of loyalty. This is a recent innovation begun about one year ago. I presume, although I am not certain, that a Communist Party membership card could be presented in lieu of the loyalty certificate.

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The secret police play a very important part in the entire procedure whereby passports are obtained. Although, according to the law, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is charged solely with the authority to issue passports, nevertheless all applications for passports must first be cleared through the National Security Police. The applications are sent by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the National Security Police, who investigate the case and then reply, approving or disapproving the application, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Diplomatic personnel had to be cleared through the Ministry of the Interior.

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